



Suncoast Connector Task Force Meeting #2

Overview of Public Comments Summary



October 23, 2019

Your Voice Is Important

Input Summary



Public Comment for all Task Forces

E-newsletter subscribers
(total of all three e-newsletters) 2,699

Website visitors (people visiting the site) 13,379

Page views 46,871

Public Comments

FDOT.Listens email address 1,440

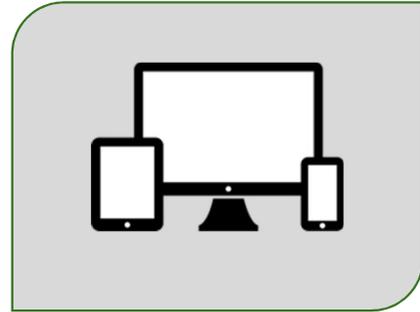
FloridaMCORES.com comment form 202

Aug. 27 Public Meeting 151



Numbers represent Aug. 1 – Oct. 6

- Website: www.FloridaMCORES.com
- Court Reporter
- Written Comments at Meeting
- Public Comment Period
(Concluding Task Force meeting)





Q: Can FDOT widen existing roads, like U.S. 19, through the Northern Turnpike and Suncoast Connectors instead of building new roads?

A: During planning and project development and environmental study (PD&E), all options will be considered, including building new multi-use corridors or improving existing corridors.





Q: Will FDOT develop transit along already established roads that will help low-income workers get to and from their places of employment; and begin major planning of low-income housing in areas where walking to a bus stop is less than a mile in safe, well-paved, well-lit areas?

A: The M-CORES study task forces will make recommendations regarding mobility opportunities within the multi-use corridors.

Q: Is M-CORES necessary to expand services like broadband/water/sewer services into rural areas?

A: The task forces will evaluate the needs of all communities within the study area, and provide potential solutions for shortcomings in those areas. The production team will evaluate the potential solutions, and proactively plan to accommodate for the current and future requirements.



Q: Isn't M-CORES about benefiting a few wealthy individuals (landowners, developers, construction companies)?

A: The task force is charged with holistically looking at the current and future needs of the corridor and providing recommendations on opportunities for enhancements to benefit the communities as a whole, to achieve the purpose of the program. Ultimately, the purpose of M-CORES is to revitalize rural communities, encourage job creation, and provide regional connectivity.



Q: How will you prevent the promise of economic opportunity and protection of our natural resources from becoming a nightmare of over-development and unbridled traffic?

A: The task force is composed of a broad cross section of stakeholders. The task force members are charged with evaluating the study area from their respective expertise and providing recommendations on how the M-CORES program can Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate and Enhance to address those concerns in each community.



Q: Does FDOT believe this program will provide the necessary infrastructure to safely and effectively evacuate Floridians during emergency events?

A: Along with recommendations from the task forces, the FDOT production team will use our standard evaluation process to determine potential solutions to safely and effectively evacuating citizens and visitors in the State of Florida when an emergency event arises.



Q: What is being done to address Florida's crumbling existing infrastructure, which is ranked 40th nationwide in overall cost-effectiveness and condition?

A: Florida must maintain existing state transportation facilities to a level of acceptable standards before adding capacity. Florida has been ranked one of the highest for condition of existing roadways and bridges in the nation.



Q: How will M-CORES address the added threat of climate change, that will affect future generations?

A: M-CORES corridors will be designed for resiliency. This includes hurricane, flooding, and rising sea level resiliency.



Q: How will FDOT and M-CORES address the high price the environment will pay due to new roadways and possible sprawl, including damage to wetlands, rivers and springs, and wildlife corridors?

A: The M-CORES program charges the task force to consider and recommend innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation; or ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or water quality protection or restoration.



Q: Why won't Florida spend the M-CORES money on purchasing more preservation/conservation lands instead?

A: The M-CORES program charges the task force to consider and recommend innovative concepts to combine right-of-way acquisition with the acquisition of lands or easements to facilitate environmental mitigation; or ecosystem, wildlife habitat, or water quality protection or restoration — in order to Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate and Enhance the corridor.



Q: Won't a new toll road lead to urban sprawl and environmental impacts?

A: The task force is charged with holistically looking at the current and future needs of the corridor. One anticipated outcome is recommendations on opportunities to enhance and benefit the communities as a whole, to achieve the purpose of the program while avoiding, minimizing and mitigating where feasible.



Q: Why don't you build more hurricane shelters rather than evacuation routes?

A: Along with recommendations from the task forces, the FDOT production team will use our standard planning and PD&E evaluation process to determine potential solutions to safely and effectively evacuating citizens and visitors in the State of Florida, when an emergency event arises.



Old Town Education Center

823 SE Highway 349

Old Town, FL

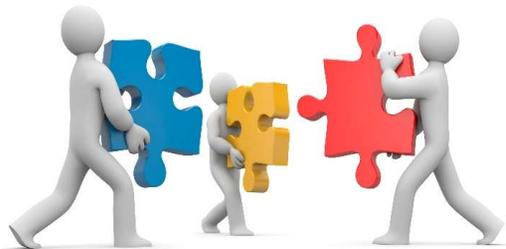
October 24, 2019 (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM)

- Informal meeting (no live presentation)
- Looping video presentation
- Display boards and visuals
- Project staff to answer questions
- Comment cards, speak to Court Reporter, or submit online comments on provided laptop



TASK FORCE ENGAGEMENT

- Task Force Meetings
- Community Open House Meetings
- Community Workshops
- Website: www.FloridaMCORES.com
- Press Releases



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) ENGAGEMENT

- Public Information Meetings
- Open Houses
- Website: www.FloridaMCORES.com
- Press Releases
- Public Involvement



- **October 24, 2019**
Suncoast Connector Community Open House
Old Town Education Center
823 SE Highway 349, Old Town, FL (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM)
- **December 17, 2019**
Suncoast Connector Task Force Meeting #3
Taylor County-IFAS Auditorium
203 Forest Park Dr., Perry, FL 32348
- **December 19, 2019**
Suncoast Connector Community Open House
Lafayette County-Alton Family Life Center
2365 East US 27, Mayo, FL 32066
- **January & February 2020:** Workshops and Engagement Sessions